

## Mary Was a Whole Opera; She Sang, Danced, Wept and Was Her Own Scenery, Too

With Her 280 and Odd Pounds of Gelatinous  
Flesh, How She Could Shimmy!—All Grew  
Out of a Practical Joke That Was Resented  
by Thin-Skinned East Siders, With the  
Usual Essex Market Finale.

By Roger Batchelder.

MARY was versatile. Her last name began with "P" and was so utterly unpronounceable that even the hardened linguists who serve as attendants at Essex Market Court gave it up and just coughed. And the two cops, Detectives Borken and Lipschitz, had their hands full keeping Mary quiet. She was as unmanageable as her name. It came about like this:

In front of Mary's home, there congregated often an assemblage of Polish gentlemen. As a means of using up excess energy they evolved the playful plan of tapping on head or shoulder each passerby. For some time, they had lots of fun, but when the victims awoke, some hours later, they were thoughtless enough to report the little joke at the police station. The cops then started the machinery, and Mary's husband, who was claimed to be the most active little taper of the bunch, was apprehended with two of his compatriots. Before a magistrate, all were fined and ordered to take exercise in another manner.

Yesterday the two cops went past Mary's house, to see if everything was quiet and peaceful, and Mary spied them from the window. At once she came to the door, told them that she knew who they were even if they did have regular clothes on, and also told them what she thought of them for locking up her husband and the star boarder.

The cops paused and blushed at the cataract of billingsgate. They told Mary to go inside and keep quiet. Mary by that time had her second wind, and used it to good effect. On that account they brought her to the grand old temple of justice to explain to Judge Frothingham.

As soon as she saw the iron bars, Mary became merry. She started an embryo six-day race around the room,

and refused to stop. Each time she passed the cops, she would chuck them under the chin, and romp on. Finally the detectives became dizzy from watching her, and made her sit down. Mary still smiled, and began to "shimmy." There was no use trying to stop that, though her 280 odd pounds made the temple girders shiver.

"Mary," declared His Honor, accus-

ingly, as she fox-trotted to the dock. "I think you have been drinking."

"Not a drop," shimmied Mary, starting to weep. To prove her ability to use her limbs, she tickle-toed. Two steps to the right, one back, then two more, with the necessary convulsion with each change of direction. It was perfect. But unfortunately, a composite odor of all known liquors reached His Honor, who was five feet away.

"Mary," he said, "you are mistaken. Your case will be continued this afternoon, when you will have recovered." At this Mary stopped crying, and smiled. Then she waited to one of the officers.

"Mr. Judge, this is like he did to me," she said. She grabbed the cop by the shoulder and shook him until his teeth chattered.

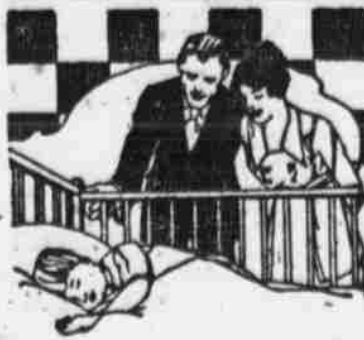
"I see, Mary. That will be all," said the Judge.

Mary went downstairs and declared that the best part of her life had been spent on the operatic stage. To prove it, she rendered selection after selec-

tion with such gusto that the entire court house echoed in protest. Finally she thought up the scheme of running and singing at the same time, and when last seen she had the Keller-Weber bicycle racing pair hushed to the mast and was musically forging into first place.

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